GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
Radio Active Elements
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government proposes to introduce new policy for mining of mineral sand containing radioactive elements and if so, the details thereof;

(b)whether the Government has received any letter from Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) requesting to handoverthe land to its original owners;

(c)if so, the details of the action taken thereon;

(d)whether the Government has received representation requesting to handover land also in Chavara, Kollam, Kerala taken by IRE for the mining of mineral sand containing radioactive elements; and

(e)if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER"S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Yes, Sir. The Govt. has recently introduced a new policy for mining of mineral sand containing "Radioactive Elements". Monazite, a prescribed substance as per the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 contains Thorium, Uranium and Rare Earths. Considering its strategic importance and need for its conservation, the Govt. has recently issued the Atomic Energy Concession Rules 2016 in July 2016. According to the policy, beach sand mineral deposits containing Monazite above a threshold value (to be declared by DAE from time to time) will be reserved for winning by agencies to be nominated by the Government.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c)The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d)Yes, Sir.

(e)The matter is under consideration of the Government.

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